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Marquette Interchange Coordination Team Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2005

DATE: January 28, 2005
FROM: Dionne C. Jackson, District 2 Planning
Crystal DuPont, District 2 Planning
January 13, 2005 at 10 a.m., Traffic Operation Center

Introductions

Review of minutes; Revised: Corrections to the minutes will be on the Mchang.org Internet sight.

Andy Narrai from Abrazo announced MTP outreach efforts taking place in January and February. January 14, there will be a presentation at the Vieau School Parent Breakfast. A distribution of materials will be at the St. Anthony's Church on 1/16/05, El Rey grocery store on 01/22/05, The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet on 01/22/05, St. Anthony's & St. Adelburg's Church on 01/30/05 and Pick-N-Save on 19th Street and National Avenue on 02/05/05.

Tim Staats from Dept. of Labor reported on the Marquette Interchange and related projects. The North and West Leg projects are let and the Core Leg will be let this summer. West Leg pre-construction meeting takes place on January 12 with Dawn Pratt as the contractor AA/EEO officer. Tim reported on project labor hiring statistics, with female hires below set contract goals. Minority hires were met and above contract goals. Female hires have been one of the main hiring challenges. Women with union memberships have been historically low. USDOL wants to see an increase in females hired. Reggie Newson shared that WisDOT is placing additional effort towards attracting women in the course of construction careers. Construction starts for the West Leg this winter and ends in October of 2005. In July, the core interchange will be bid through a low-bid process. Reggie also discussed ideas on how to encourage DBE contractors to bid on the smaller prime contracts; one example was a program that Randy Crump leads for MMSD. The program assists potential DBE contractors in moving through the DBE process and hopefully to prime.

Jim Zehner from MTP provided an update on the Get Around Guides. There will be a flyer insert in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel on 01/23/05. A new letter will be distributed at the end of February. Jim commented that a lot of people find the get around guide useful. It has become an excellent tool in the community. The next get around guide for May-June 05 will be ready sometime in April. The content and format will be slightly different because of the additional ramp and lane closures.

Visual Xiong from the Hmong American Friendship Association received positive comments from the Hmong community regarding the Get Around Guides. He announced that their radio spot has been canceled and is looking for a new time slot on Sundays from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The radio show was the main vehicle for disseminating information regarding the interchange project for this community. If anyone has any information regarding a radio spot, please call Visual at 414-344-6575. The Marquette interchange website is now a link on the front page of the Hmong American website. Visual said that he would continue to inform Klan leaders regarding the project until the radio shows returns.

Martha Love has combined the North Leg and West Leg efforts for community brainstorming. Once a month on the gospel stations, her group makes an announcement or gives update regarding the Marquette Interchange. Martha says most residents are doing their own research to map their way around closings. Martha Love also mentioned the production she is partnering on with Deputy Secretary Ruben Anthony in December of 2004 through the end of January 2005 on Channel 14. They will be speaking to concerns on the Marquette Interchange Project.

Martha expressed concern with the Fox-6 News interviews on the Interchange workers. People of color were not shown. This may send wrong signal to the community regarding the amount of minority participation on the Marquette Interchange project.

Reggie Newson responded to Martha's concerns. At the time of the news report, only utility work was being done. Winter is the slow season for construction work and is probably why minority workers were not seen. He has discussed this with the Communications Manager and will ensure that people of color are included during the next phase when the spring construction ramp up occurs.

Reggie Newson announced The Wisconsin Transportation Contractors and Engineers Conference on January 24 and 25 at the Marriott in Madison, WI. All DBE's are encouraged to attend for great networking opportunity with contractors. There will be a Bidders Workshop on February 24 from 8:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Attendance is not mandatory but is encouraged. The Partnering for Employers Conference will be held at the Country Spring Inn on County T Road, February 24 from 7:30 am – 3:00 pm. The BOGGS Convention will be held on April 19th at Monona Terrace from 8 am to 4pm. (see attached applications)

Reggie distributed a project report card for the Labor efforts. Many of the goals set had been met or surpassed measurements.

Earl Buford referenced the report card and provided his observations on where WRTP/Big Step should show improvement. He related the problems to administration and upkeep of student and graduate contacts, and the small number of female graduates. They are working on improvements in this process. Keeping in contact with TRANS graduates is a top priority in order to inform them on employment opportunities. WRTP/Big Step is considering an all female class, and daytime and evening classes.

Jacqueline Moore, Creative Marketing, reported that their advertising project is complete.

Nancy Woltzen from Versant announced that on January 23 the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and on January 24 the Multi-cultural papers would have new Get Around Guide inserts. Nancy echoed similar comments provided by Jim as to community sentiment regarding the usefulness of the guides. Since the only current media for the Hmong

community is a news magazine, a special packaging will be used to accommodate the smaller size. The third Get Around Guide will be distributed in April.

Aileen Switzer discussed the General Mitchell International Airport (GMIA) update. The project is now complete and the ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for January 18. The Amtrak project is still under way with some minor delays.

Crystal DuPont congratulated Reggie Newson for being named as one of the Milwaukee Business Journal's **Top 40 under 40!**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m. Please reserve time for the next meeting, which will again be held at the Amtrak Station, February 10, 2005 at 10 a.m.